

**Thomas Jefferson to Edmond C. Genet, June 19, 1793, from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.**

**TO THE FRENCH MINISTER J. MSS. (EDMOND CHARLES GENET)**

Philadelphia, June 19, 1793.

Sir, —According to the desire expressed in your letter of the 14th instant, the President will give the instructions necessary for the settlement of the instalments of principal and interest, still due from the United States to France. This is an act equally just and desirable for both parties; and although it had not been imagined that the materials for doing it were to be had here at this moment, yet we shall be pleased to find that they may. In the mean time, what is further to be done, will doubtless be the subject of further reflection and inquiry with you; and particularly the operation proposed in your letter will be viewed under all its aspects. Among these, we think it will present itself as a measure too questionable, both in principle and practicability, too deeply interesting to the credit of the United States, and too unpromising in its result to France, to be found eligible to yourself.<sup>1</sup> Finally, we rest secure that what is of mutual concern will not be done but with mutual concert.

<sup>1</sup> Genet proposed to give “assignments” of the United States' debt to France to merchants in payment for produce.